

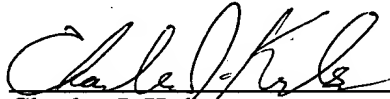
REMARKS

Claims 1-31 remain pending in the present application.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowability is earnestly sought. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-273-7571.

Respectfully submitted,

1-17-02  
Date

  
Charles J. Kulas  
Reg. No. 35,809